

Message Text

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11

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NEA-10 INT-08 SS-15 NSC-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12

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R 191040 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 853

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0730

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR ENRG SO ET

SUBJ: GSDR DENIES OIL FIND IN OGADEN

REF: MOGADISCIO 0724

1. IN YET ANOTHER BLAST AT WESTERN MEDIA, GSDR MIN INFO HAS ISSUED PRESS RELEASE DESCRIBING BBC BROADCAST OF MAY 16 AS " COMPLETELY FALSE, LASHING- OUT PROPAGANDA AGAINST SOMALIA." APPARENTLY BBC BROADCAST INCLUDED REMARKS ABOUT SOVIET ARMS BUILD- UP, RECENT BORDER INCIDENT IN WHICH SOMALI FORCES ALLEGEDLY HELD ETHIOPIA POST FOR SOME PERIOD, AND TENNECO PETROLEUM DISCOVERY IN OGADEN NEAR DE FACTO BORDER.

2. GSDR STATEMENT DOES NOT DENY MILITARY BUILD- UP BUT SAYS BBC CHARGES SEEK " CREATE FEARS WITHIN SISTERLY AFRICAN STATES AND SPEED UP WAR BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ITS NEIGHBORS."

3. STATEMENT ABSOLUTELY DENIES SOMALI ARMY OCCUPATION OF ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY. " THE SOMALI ARMY HAS NEVER OCCUPIED ANY ETHIOPIAN TERRITORY OUTSIDE SOMALIA AT ANY TIME." COMMENT: THI IS PROBABLY CORRECT, BUT DUCKS QUESTION OF
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WHETHER SOMALI POLICE HAVE TEMPORARILY OCCUPIED POSTS ON OTHER
SIDE OF DE FACTO BORDER.

4. OF MORE INTEREST IS SOMALI HANDLING OF TENNECO GAS STRIKE.
STATEMENT SAYS " WHILE IMPERIALISTS ARE SIGNING ABOUT THIS
SO- CALLED OIL FIND, THERE IS NO TRUTH THAT OIL HAS BEEN STRUCK
IN THE AREA. THE MOTIVE BEHIND THIS PROPAGANDA IS ONLY IN-
TENDED TO PROVOKE WAR BETWEEN SOMALIA AND ITS NEIGHBORS, BUT
SOMALIA IS ON THE ALERT AND CANNOT BE INSTIGATED TO GO TO
WAR IN THIS WAY." SO FAR AS WE KNOW, THIS IS FIRST SOMALI
PUBLIC STATEMENT ON PETROLEUM OPERATIONS IN OGADEN. BY DENY-
ING REPORTED FIND, GSDR PROTECTS ITS MANEUVERING POSITION
ON ISSUE.
CROMWELL

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